After four meetings with the various stakeholders held between 11th August 2009 and 3rd September 2009, a modified draft Act was again circulated to stakeholders on 18th September 2009, and uploaded on Website of Ministry.

Subsequently, a workshop was held on the 9th and 10th October 2009 with all the stakeholders, and a revised draft Act has again been circulated for consultation and uploaded on the Website of the Ministry on 17th November, 2009. The various versions of the draft Act can be seen on the Ministry website www.mines.nic.in

After the consultation process is over, Bill will be introduced in Parliament after obtaining Cabinet approval. It is therefore not possible to indicate the nature of the provisions till the proposal is finalized with Cabinet approval.

Film and video piracy

*442. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to formulate stringent law to check film and video piracy in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the bottlenecks found in the existing law;

(c) whether Government is also aware that several State Governments have completely failed to implement the law to check film and video piracy;

(d) if so, whether the film industry has been affected adversely as a result thereof; and

(e) if so, by when the new law to check film and video piracy is likely to be enforced?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Government is aware of the problems relating to infringement of copyright resulting in piracy, which arises due to a host of factors, such as, non-availability of filmed entertainment at an affordable price, lack of normal channels of distribution to a large chunk of population, relatively high rates of entertainment tax, relatively easy availability of cheap pirated films as well as lack of awareness among the public. Piracy and infringement of copyright adversely affect the owners of copyright.

Measures have been taken by the Union Government, and the State Governments towards reduction in the rates of custom duty, service tax and entertainment tax, amendments in the Copyright Act, improving the enforcement machinery and enhancing public awareness for checking film and video piracy.

Power Outages

*443. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large, medium and small consumers are spending around Rs.30,000 crore per annum on inverters and generators to meet perennial power shortage; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that power outages cost Rs.2.88 lakh crore every year, which can raise India's 1,50,000 MW capacity by about 50 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) There is a continuing shortage of power in the country. The quantum of shortage varies from State to State, on month to month and day to day, depending on demand and availability of power. The energy and peak shortages during April-November, 2009 were 52,878 Million Unit (9.6%) and 14,672 MW (12.6%) respectively. The consumers resort to use of inverters and generators to mitigate shortage of power. According to Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 47,318 industries were engaged in the manufacturing of electric motors, generators, transformers and inverters in 2006-07. Electricity being one of the important inputs for various sectors, shortage of power leads to direct as well as indirect losses. However, no specific information is available with the Government regarding annual spending on invertors and generators by various types of consumers to meet power shortage and the loss due to power outages.

Use of high wall mining technology by SCCL

*444.SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:

SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has placed an order for production of coal using high wall mining technology;

(b) if so, the details of the terms and conditions of the contract;

(c) whether there have been deviations with regard to the terms of Work Order (WO) vis-a-vis Terms of Tender Document (TTD) by the company;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether extraction of coal reserves beneath high walls in opencast mines is being executed as per schedule of WO and if not, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To conserve and facilitate the optimum extraction of valuable coal reserves locked beneath high walls in opencast mines, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has placed order for production of coal using high wall mining technology. The work has been awarded to M/s Advanced Mining Technology Pvt. Ltd. Hyderabad for extraction of 6 Million Tonnes (MT) of coal from Ramagundam [Opencast-(OC)] OC-I & II, Medapalli OC and Koyagudem OC-I for the total contract value of Rs.480.789 crore. The period of the contract is 7 years 6 months or completion of production of 6 MT or more whichever is earlier. The brief terms and conditions of the contract are as under:-